



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Get a Green Start on New Year with Holiday Recycling

Gaithersburg, MD (January 5, 2021) When the holidays are over, the City of Gaithersburg encourages curbside residential recyclers to get a green start on the New Year by recycling as much as possible. Wrapping paper is recyclable only if it is not shiny, foil-lined or glittery. All those extra glass and plastic containers are recyclable, and don't even need to be separated – they can all go in bins or carts thanks to the City's single stream recycling program. Please do not put plastic bags or shipping plastics in your recycling bin. Those can be recycled at most grocery stores.

Disposable batteries are no longer considered hazardous and may be placed in regular household trash. Rechargeable batteries, computers and other electronic devices and equipment should be taken to the [Solid Waste Transfer Station's](#) recycling drop-off area in Derwood. Computers and other electronic devices can also be recycled at Gaithersburg Shreds, an annual free paper and electronic device shredding/recycling event held each fall. You might consider holding onto your device for recycling at that time.

Mobile phones are equipped with a special chip that allows calls to 911 or #77 (on state highways), allowing phones to be useful even after service has been disconnected. National carriers have mobile phone recycling take-back plans in place, accepting unwanted mobile phones at any of their retail locations nationwide. Visit a participating retailer for more information.

Old appliances and television sets that are not suitable for resale or donation can be disposed through the City's [bulk pick up service](#). The service requires that you schedule in advance for pick up on any of your regular recycling days. Request a bulk pick up [here](#).

The City of Gaithersburg's recycling contractor will pick up [holiday trees](#) on regular recycling days under the following conditions:

- Put trees curbside next to your recycling containers by 7 a.m. on regular recycling days.
- Trees must be in their natural state.
- Remove all decorations, including tinsel and angel hair.
- Be sure there is no metal attached to the tree.
- Do not wrap trees in plastic.
- Artificial trees will not be recycled.
- Trees with root balls will not be recycled.

- Trees will only be picked up from residence. Do not take the trees to other sites such as schools or public buildings.

There is no deadline – trees, branches, clippings and yard debris are picked up on your regular recycling day throughout the year.

Recycle non-working holiday string lights by dropping them off at MOM's Organic Market, Lowe's Home Improvement, or the [Shady Grove Transfer Station](#) e-waste drop-off site. You can also mail your non-working lights to [Christmas Light Source](#) and they will send you a coupon to purchase new LED lights.

For a full description of Gaithersburg's recycling program please visit the City website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov or call the Department of Public Works at 301-258-6370. Stay up to date on recycling and yard waste services by subscribing to notifications from the City's [Recycle Coach](#) app.

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